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The Heritage 'Blueprint'

The Reagan administration has received a large and unexpected assist in its tough job of mapping policy changes from one of the nation's most respected private research organizations, The Heritage Foundation.

Anticipating that the nation is ready for a change from the liberal government under Jimmy Carter, the Heritage Foundation set out almost a year ago to develop a "blueprint" for conservative American government.

Some 250 experts from government, universities, think tanks, and the business and legal professions took part in the massive study of all facets of the federal government. They now have produced a 3,000-page, 20-volume study recommending a number of far-reaching changes. Recommendations include phasing out the Department of Energy, using U.S. agricultural exports as a weapon in foreign policy, establishing a freeze on all consulting contracts for "health and human services" pending a thorough review, ending the Carter administration's "War on the West" and its zero-leasing policies on federal land containing coal and shale.

Also proposed are the development of a new strategic bomber and approval of a \$20 billion supplemental expenditure to give priority attention to combat readiness, personnel training, spare parts and ammunition, production of the neutron warhead and reopening the Minuteman III production line.

The Foundation also supports a broad tuition tax credit program to promote diversity and free choice in education, a program which a great many Americans have supported for years but which has been blocked by liberals in Congress who seem intent on putting private schools out of business.

Other proposals call for:

- Deregulating the energy, transportation, and communications industries;

- Slashing federal paperwork and requiring agencies to justify forms and reporting procedures;

- Revoking all executive orders requiring affirmative action for minorities in government hiring;

- Stripping the Office of Surface Mining of most of its powers;

- Returning most of the function of the Environmental Protection Agency to the states and other government offices;

- Lifting counterproductive restrictions on the CIA and the FBI;

- Declaring a temporary moratorium on new regulations;

- Exempting businesses with less than 100 employees from all regulatory and paperwork requirements;

- Converting the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Mine Safety and Health Administration into "cooperative roles rather than adversarial ones."

The Foundation calls for a 10 percent across-the-board cut in personal income taxes, an improved capital depreciation program along the lines of the 10-5-3 legislation, some reduction in corporate income tax rates and a complete reappraisal of export impediments.

These are only SOME of the major proposals, but they illustrate that those who drafted the voluminous report have genuinely major changes in mind. Most of these are well warranted and it is hoped that President Reagan and his advisers will give this excellent blueprint careful consideration. After 47 years of heaping one liberal program on top of another, sweeping changes in Washington are urgently needed.